



Disaster News

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all Sizes

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

ANNOUNCES DISASTER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN OHIO

CLEVELAND, OH – Homeowners, renters and businesses located in Hocking, Mahoning and Portage counties are now eligible to apply for low-interest disaster loan assistance from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These counties were added to the major disaster declaration issued by President Bush on June 3, as a result of damages caused by the severe storms and flooding that began on May 18, according to the SBA Disaster Area Director Michael C. Allen.

Because the SBA Disaster Assistance Program is the primary form of federal assistance to those affected by a disaster, most homeowners, renters, and all businesses will be referred directly to the SBA for low-interest disaster loans when they register for assistance. If you receive a disaster loan application, “complete and return your application as soon as possible,” Allen said. “The sooner we get your application back, the sooner we can get started on getting you some help,” added Allen.

SBA offers loans of up to \$200,000 to repair disaster damaged homes. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to replace personal property. Loans to businesses and non-profit organizations of up to \$1.5 million are also available to repair damage to real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, etc., and for leasehold improvements. Working capital assistance is also available through SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. A business need not have physical damage to be eligible for economic injury assistance.

Interest rates for homeowners and renters can be as low as 2.875 percent and 2.750 percent for businesses. Loan terms on all loans can be up to 30 years. Actual loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition.

Disaster victims are reminded that to be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, including SBA’s disaster loans, they must first call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). This one call will get people referred to the agency that can best help with their disaster-related needs. Even if you had some insurance, it is important that you register for this assistance.

The application deadline for SBA physical damage loan assistance is August 2; the deadline for economic injury applications is March 3, 2005.

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For more information visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/disaster